



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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For Immediate Release
June 10, 2011

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DEQ, DHH, LPSC have receiver appointed for northeastern Louisiana sewer, water systems

BATON ROUGE – As a result of the recent federal conviction of a West Monroe water system operator, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals and the Louisiana Public Service Commission have worked together to have a receiver appointed over the operations of Louisiana Land & Water Company Inc. On June 9, Martin Schott was appointed temporary receiver over Louisiana Land & Water Company's sewage and water systems.

Jeffrey Pruett, 58, president and CEO of Louisiana Land & Water Company and the Principal Officer of LWC Management Company, was convicted by a federal jury in January, and sentenced on felony violations and a misdemeanor of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act. There have also been numerous compliance issues associated with the operation of Pruett's facilities.

Pruett operated more than 30 public water supply systems and wastewater treatment units in northeastern Louisiana. These facilities will be placed under the control of the receiver. There will be a hearing on June 20 to make the appointment permanent.

"This partnership will ensure that the citizens of West Monroe and Ouachita Parish receive a level of service that ensures their water quality meets or exceeds current federal and state guidelines," said DEQ Secretary Peggy Hatch. "It is imperative that LWC Management Company and all waste water treatment facilities in the state conduct business practices that are protective of human health and the environment."